

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate issuance method for issuing an electronic booking certificate ~~for certifying that the supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer~~, comprising the steps of:

electronically preparing verification information required for verifying ~~the-a~~ legitimacy of a booking certificate, the book certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer;

electronically inputting information for identifying the verification information;

electronically preparing a booking certificate verifiable with the verification information identified by the inputted information for identifying verification information; and

electronically outputting the booking certificate thus prepared.

2. (Currently Amended) A computerized booking certificate issuance system for issuing an electronic booking certificate ~~for certifying that the supply of a product or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer~~, comprising:

verification information preparing means for preparing verification information required for verifying ~~the-a~~ legitimacy of a booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer;

verification information output means for outputting the verification information prepared by the verification information preparing means;

booking certificate preparing means, to which information for identifying the verification information is inputted, for preparing a booking certificate verifiable with the verification information identified by the input; and

booking certificate output means for outputting the booking certificate prepared by the booking certificate preparing means.

3. (Original) A booking certificate issuance system, as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising:

booking conditions preparing means for preparing booking conditions, which are conditions for limiting booking particulars, wherein

the booking certificate prepared by the booking certificate preparing means contains the booking conditions prepared by the booking conditions preparing means.

4. (Original) A booking certificate issuance system, as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the booking certificate preparing means receives input of information for identifying an intermediary of a request for booking certificate, together with the information for identifying verification information, and a booking certificate intermediation license certifying that the intermediary is licensed to intermediate the request for booking certificate corresponding to the verification information thus identified, checks whether or not the intermediary is licensed for intermediation of the request for booking certificate corresponding to the verification information by referencing the booking certificate intermediation license, and prepares the booking certificate only when the intermediary is found to be licensed.

5. (Currently Amended) A computerized booking certificate issuance system for issuing an electronic booking certificate for certifying that a supply of a product or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising:

verification information preparing means for preparing verification information required for verifying a legitimacy of a booking certificate;

verification information output means for outputting the verification information prepared by the verification information preparing means;

booking certificate preparing means, to which information for identifying the verification information is inputted, for preparing a booking certificate verifiable with the verification information identified by the input;

booking certificate output means for outputting the booking certificate prepared by the booking certificate preparing means;

a booking certificate issuance history memory unit that stores a booking certificate issuance history;

a booking certificate issuance history for provider preparing unit, to which information for identifying the provider of a product and/or a service is inputted, that extracts a booking certificate issuance history for provider regarding the product and/or the service available from the provider out of the issuance history stored in the booking certificate issuance history memory unit; and

a booking certificate issuance history for provider output unit that outputs the booking certificate issuance history for provider prepared by the booking certificate issuance history for provider preparing unit.

6. (Currently Amended) A computerized booking certificate issuance system for issuing an electronic booking certificate for certifying that a supply of a product or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising:

verification information preparing means for preparing verification information required for verifying a legitimacy of a booking certificate;

verification information output means for outputting the verification information prepared by the verification information preparing means;

booking certificate preparing means, to which information for identifying the verification information is inputted, for preparing a booking certificate verifiable with the verification information identified by the input;

booking certificate output means for outputting the booking certificate prepared by the booking certificate preparing means;

booking certificate request accepting means for accepting a request for booking certificate, wherein:

a booking certificate is prepared by the booking certificate preparing means when the booking certificate request accepting means has accepted a request for booking certificate, and wherein the system further comprises:

a booking certificate issuance history memory unit that stores a booking certificate issuance history;

a booking certificate issuance history for requester preparing unit, to which information for identifying ~~the~~ a requester of booking certificate is inputted, that extracts a booking certificate issuance history for requester~~regarding~~, which is ~~the~~ a history of booking certificate issuance for the requester, out of the issuance history stored in the booking certificate issuance history memory unit; and

a booking certificate issuance history for requester output unit that outputs the booking certificate issuance history for requester prepared by the booking certificate issuance history for requester preparing unit.

7. (Currently Amended) A computerized booking certificate issuance system for issuing an electronic booking certificate for certifying that a supply of a product or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising:

verification information preparing means for preparing verification

information required for verifying a legitimacy of a booking certificate;

verification information output means for outputting the verification

information prepared by the verification information preparing means;

booking certificate preparing means, to which information for identifying the

verification information is inputted, for preparing a booking certificate verifiable with the

verification information identified by the input;

booking certificate output means for outputting the booking certificate

prepared by the booking certificate preparing means;

a verification information issuance history memory unit that stores a verification information issuance history;

a verification information issuance history preparing unit, to which information for identifying a grantee of verification information is inputted, that extracts a verification information issuance history for grantee, which is a verification information issuance history regarding the verification information issued to the grantee, out of the issuance history stored in the verification information issuance history memory unit; and

a verification information issuance history output unit that outputs the verification information issuance history for grantee prepared by the verification information issuance history preparing unit.

8. (Original) A booking certificate issuance system, as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising:

encrypted public key pair preparing means for preparing an encrypted public key pair; and

private key holding means for holding a private key out of the public key pair prepared by the encrypted public key pair preparing means, wherein

the verification information is a public key prepared by the encrypted public key pair preparing means, and the booking certificate is prepared by using the private key held by the private key holding means.

9. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate intermediation method for performing intermediation of a request for an electronic booking certificate ~~for certifying that the supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, comprising the steps of:~~

electronically receiving a first request for booking certificate, which is a request for ~~the~~an issuance of a booking certificate certifying ~~the~~an advance booking of a specific product and/or service;

electronically preparing a second request for booking certificate, which is a request for the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the ~~accepted~~received first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request; and

electronically outputting the second request for booking certificate thus prepared.

10. (Currently Amended) A computerized booking certificate intermediation system for performing intermediation of a request for an electronic booking certificate for certifying that ~~the~~a supply of a product or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, comprising:

booking certificate request acceptance means for accepting a first request for booking certificate, which is a request for ~~the~~an issuance of a booking certificate for certifying ~~the~~a booking in advance for a specific product and/or service that is offered for supply;

booking certificate request preparing means for preparing a second request for booking certificate requesting the issuance of ~~at~~ the booking certificate requested with the accepted first request for booking certificate, the second request prepared based on the received first request; and

booking certificate request output means for outputting the second request for booking certificate generated by the booking certificate request preparing means.

11. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate intermediation system, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein verification information needed for verifying ~~the~~ a legitimacy of a specific booking certificate is associated with a specific product and/or service, and the first and second requests for booking certificates contain information for identifying the verification information for specifying the product and/or service for which a booking certificate is requested with the requests.

12. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate intermediation system, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the requested booking certificate contains booking conditions, which are ~~the~~ conditions for limiting booking particulars, and wherein the system further comprises:

booking conditions preparing means for preparing the booking conditions to be contained in the requested booking certificate, wherein the second request for booking certificate prepared by the booking certificate request preparing means contains the booking conditions prepared by the booking conditions preparing means.

13. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate intermediation system, as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising:

booking certificate intermediation license storage means for holding a booking certificate intermediation license to certify that the system is licensed for intermediation of the first request for booking certificate regarding the specific product and/or service, wherein:

the second request for booking certificate, outputted from the booking certificate request output means contains the booking certificate intermediation license to intermediate the first request for the booking certificate regarding the specific product and/or service.

14. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate intermediation system, as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising:

billing means for charging a fee for booking certificate issuance to ~~thea~~ requester of the first request for booking certificate, wherein

the ~~prescribed booking certificate issuance~~ fee is charged by the billing means to the requester when the first request for booking certificate is inputted.

15. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate intermediation system, as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising:

account settlement means for collecting a fee for booking certificate issuance from ~~thea~~ requester of the first request for booking certificate, wherein

the ~~booking certificate issuance~~ fee is collected by the account settlement means from the requester when the first request for booking certificate is inputted.

16. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate intermediation license method for licensing ~~the-an~~ intermediation of a request for an electronic booking certificate certifying that ~~the supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance by a specific consumer,~~ comprising ~~the steps of:~~

electronically inputting information for identifying an intermediary to perform intermediation of a request for a booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance by a specific consumer;

electronically inputting information for specifying the product and/or service for which the intermediary is licensed for intermediation;

electronically preparing a booking certificate intermediation license for certifying that the intermediation of the request for booking certificate for the product and/or service specified by the latter input information is licensed to the intermediary identified by the former input information; and

electronically outputting the booking certificate intermediation license certificate thus prepared.

17. (Currently Amended) A computerized booking certificate intermediation licensing system for licensing intermediation of a request ~~for an electronic booking certificate for certifying that the supply of a product or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer~~, comprising:

booking certificate intermediation license preparing means, to which information for identifying an intermediary to perform intermediation of a request for an electronic booking certificate for certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer and information for specifying a product and/or a service for which the intermediary is licensed for intermediation are inputted, for preparing a booking certificate intermediation license for certifying that the intermediary identified by the former input information is licensed for the intermediation of the request for booking certificate for the product and/or service specified by the latter input information; and

booking certificate intermediation license output means for outputting the booking certificate intermediation license prepared by the booking certificate intermediation license preparing means.

18. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate intermediation licensing system, as claimed in Claim 17, further comprising:

booking conditions limitation information preparing means for preparing booking conditions limitation information, which is information for limiting ~~the~~ scope of the booking conditions, which are conditions for limiting booking particulars to be entered in the booking certificate issued by intermediation by the intermediary, who is the recipient of the license, wherein

the booking certificate intermediation license prepared by the booking certificate intermediation license preparing means contains the booking conditions limitation information prepared by the booking conditions limitation information preparing means.

19. (Original) A booking certificate intermediation licensing system, as claimed in Claim 17, further comprising:

a booking certificate intermediation license issuance history memory unit that stores a license issuance history;

a booking certificate intermediation license issuance history for intermediary preparing unit, to which information for specifying the intermediary of a request for booking certificate is inputted, that extracts out of issuance history recorded in the booking certificate intermediation license issuance history memory unit a booking certificate intermediation license issuance history for intermediary, which is a history regarding license issued to the intermediary; and

a booking certificate intermediation license issuance history for intermediary output unit that outputs the booking certificate intermediation license issuance history for

intermediary prepared by the booking certificate intermediation license issuance history for intermediary preparing unit.

20. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate verifying method for verifying the ~~a~~ legitimacy of an electronic booking certificate certifying that the supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, comprising the steps of:

electronically storing verification information for verifying ~~the~~ a booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer;

electronically inputting the booking certificate; and  
electronically verifying the legitimacy of the input booking certificate by using the stored verification information.

21. (Currently Amended) A booking certificate verification apparatus for verifying ~~the~~ a legitimacy of an electronic booking certificate certifying that the supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer, comprising:

verification information storage means for storing verification information for verifying the booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer; and

booking certificate verification means, to which the booking certificate is inputted, for verifying the legitimacy of the input booking certificate by using the verification information stored in the verification information storage means.

22. (Original) A booking certificate verification apparatus, as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising:

connection means for connecting a portable memory apparatus holding the booking certificate, wherein

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the booking certificate verification means verifies through the connection means the legitimacy of the booking certificate stored in the portable memory apparatus.

23. (New) The booking certificate verification apparatus of claim 2, wherein the booking certificate is usable to be downloaded to a portable memory unit to be presented for receiving the booked product and/or service.

24. (New) The booking certificate verification apparatus of claim 23, wherein the portable memory unit comprises an IC card.

25. (New) The booking certificate verification apparatus of claim 10, wherein the booking certificate is usable to be downloaded to a portable memory unit to be presented for receiving the booked product and/or service.

26. (New) The booking certificate verification apparatus of claim 25, wherein the portable memory unit comprises an IC card.

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27. (New) The booking certificate verification apparatus of claim 17, wherein the booking certificate is usable to be downloaded to a portable memory unit to be presented for receiving the booked product and/or service.

28. (New) The booking certificate verification apparatus of claim 27, wherein the portable memory unit comprises an IC card.

29. (New) The booking certificate verification apparatus of claim 21, wherein the portable memory apparatus comprises an IC card.

30. (New) A storage medium storing a set of program instructions executable on a data processing device and usable to issue an electronic booking certificate, the set of program instructions comprising:

instructions for preparing verification information required for verifying a legitimacy of a booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer;

instructions for inputting information for identifying the verification information;

instructions for preparing a booking certificate verifiable with the verification information identified by the inputted information for identifying verification information; and

instructions for outputting the booking certificate thus prepared.

31. (New) A storage medium storing a set of program instructions executable on a data processing device and usable to perform intermediation of a request for an electronic booking certificate, the set of program instructions comprising:

instructions for receiving a first request for booking certificate, which is a request for an issuance of a booking certificate certifying an advance booking of a specific product and/or service;

instructions for preparing a second request for booking certificate, which is a request for the issuance of the booking certificate requested with the received first request for booking certificate; and

instructions for outputting the second request for booking certificate thus prepared.

32. (New) A storage medium storing a set of program instructions executable on a data processing device and usable to license an intermediation of a request for an electronic booking certificate, the set of program instructions comprising:

instructions for inputting information for identifying an intermediary to perform intermediation of a request for a booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer;

instructions for inputting information for specifying the product and/or service for which the intermediary is licensed for intermediation;

instructions for preparing a booking certificate intermediation license for certifying that the intermediation of the request for booking certificate for the product and/or service specified by the latter input information is licensed to the intermediary identified by the former input information; and

instructions for outputting the booking certificate intermediation license certificate thus prepared.

33. (New) A storage medium storing a set of program instructions executable on a data processing device and usable to verify a legitimacy of an electronic booking certificate, the set of program instructions comprising:

instructions for storing verification information for verifying a booking certificate certifying that a supply of a product and/or a service is booked in advance for a specific consumer;

instructions for inputting the booking certificate; and

instructions for verifying the legitimacy of the input booking certificate by using the stored verification information.

34. (New) A booking certificate issuance system as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising:

a booking certificate issuance history memory unit that stores a booking certificate issuance history;

a booking certificate issuance history for provider preparing unit, to which information for identifying a provider of a product and/or a service is inputted, that extracts a booking certificate issuance history for provider regarding the product and/or the service available from the provider out of the issuance history stored in the booking certificate issuance history memory unit; and

a booking certificate issuance history for provider output unit that outputs the booking certificate issuance history for provider prepared by the booking certificate issuance history for provider preparing unit.

35. (New) A booking certificate issuance system as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising:

booking certificate request accepting means for accepting a request for booking certificate, wherein:

a booking certificate is prepared by the booking certificate preparing means when the booking certificate request accepting means has accepted a request for booking certificate, and wherein the system further comprises:

a booking certificate issuance history memory unit that stores a booking certificate issuance history;

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a booking certificate issuance history for requester preparing unit, to which information for identifying a requester of booking certificate is inputted, that extracts a booking certificate issuance history for requester, which is a history of booking certificate issuance for the requester, out of the issuance history stored in the booking certificate issuance history memory unit; and

a booking certificate issuance history for requester output unit that outputs the booking certificate issuance history for requester prepared by the booking certificate issuance history for requester preparing unit.

36. (New) A booking certificate issuance system as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising:

a verification information issuance history memory unit that stores a verification information issuance history;

a verification information issuance history preparing unit, to which information for identifying a grantee of verification information is inputted, that extracts a verification information issuance history for grantee, which is a verification information issuance history regarding the verification information issued to the grantee, out of the issuance history stored in the verification information issuance history memory unit; and

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a verification information issuance history output unit that outputs the verification information issuance history for grantee prepared by the verification information issuance history preparing unit.